

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2014**

In Attendance:

Dave Colteryahn, chair
Greg LoBuono, vice-chair
Veronica Craig, recording secretary
Becky Montag
Tom Nault
Gwen Ritchie
Adam Sackenheim
Bob Schappacher, Parks and Recreation Representative
Rodney Spencer, Parks Board Liaison

Absent: Chuck Ullrich

Guests: Members of the Hamilton (Ohio) Tree Advisory Board, as follows: Doris Bergen, Armand Bloch, Carol Christian, Ann Coombs, Joel Fink, Dan Gladish, Chelsea Obrebski, Carrie Pate, and City Liaison, Mark Murray.

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by chairperson Dave Colteryahn.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the last meeting, October 1, 2014, were approved with no corrections. The recording secretary for the Hamilton Tree Advisory Board (HTAB) suggested that minutes for each group's monthly meetings be shared via e-mail. Discussion followed, with all in agreement. Arrangements will be made for this exchange.

Welcome: Dave, EC chairperson, welcomed the Hamilton Board and thanked them for taking the time to attend Fairfield's EC meeting. Introductions followed. The format for this first joint session, decided by both groups, was kept simple. Each community would share the following:

- > Accomplishments in the past 5 years
- > Current projects
- > Future projects/goals

Fairfield's Accomplishments:

- > 19 years as a Tree City
- > Home Expo – seedling giveaway
- > Adopt-a-Roadway
- > EAB management plan
- > ODNR match-grant: removal of 61 dead or diseased ashes, replanting 35 other-species trees
- > Friends of Fairfield Forest Awards – both individual and business
- > Huffman Park creation and development
- > Articles and Newsletters
- > Arbor Day Proclamations

Hamilton's Accomplishments:

- > 10 years as a Tree City
- > Tree Nursery Project -- has provided 50-100 low cost planted trees to residents per year.
- > Columns in the *Journal News*, advertisements and letters to share information
- > Permeable rubber sidewalks – a win/win for the City and for the trees
- > Two Tree Surveys – random sampling has provided valuable information
- > Tree Labs – on-site learning labs, 8 different schools 125 trees
- > Reestablishment of Crawford Woods Arboretum – a tree “showroom” for residents. The Betsy Newton

Arboretum – educational facility. There is also a designated rain garden and a rain barrel demonstration.

- > HUGS – Hamilton Urban Garden System helps maintain 62 parks city-wide
- > Rooftop garden on McDulin Parking Garage and overseen by Alfred Hall.
- > Tree Academy Host
- > EAB management plan
- > Best Tree Contest – photos by member Buck Huber

Hamilton's Current Projects:

- > Facebook Page
- > "Taking Root" campaign
- > Better communication through cross-representation with planning commission – Armand Bloch

Fairfield's Current Projects:

- > Creekside Park – Honor Grove with 116 trees, 49 species

Open Discussion:

- > Hamilton asked who made the signs for Fairfield's Parks. Bob provided the supplier's name.
- > Discussion of dead tree removal: In Hamilton, the homeowner is responsible for removal. In Fairfield, Public Works is responsible for street tree maintenance.
- > No Facebook page for Fairfield EC, as it is against City policy.
- > Doris suggested that tree information be shared between our two communities, and that we work together when articles need to be run in the paper.
- > Dave asked about Hamilton's Street Tree Regulations. Is there a "Do Not Plant" list?
- > A discussion of how each municipality handles its planting, removal and pruning of trees on the right-of-way followed. In Fairfield, this is done by Public Works. In Hamilton, residents are responsible for pruning.
- > How to increase residential awareness and usage of each community's park system was also a topic. Both groups agreed that budget is a factor. A newsletter, for example, is a large expense. Some less costly suggestions, such as participation in City events, tapping volunteer opportunities, promoting walking trails and specialty parks (such as Huffman or Hamilton's Dog Park), and the use of educational programs were all suggested as ways to promote city parks.

Joint Projects: In addition to the exchange of minutes proposed and agreed upon earlier, both Boards felt that this joint session was beneficial on many levels. Therefore, Hamilton extended an invitation to attend one of their meetings next spring. Fairfield gladly accepted, and a discussion about date and location followed. May, 2015 seemed to work for both groups, with the location yet to be determined. Both sets of Board Members agreed this meeting was a success. Fairfield thanked Hamilton for attending, and all look forward to next spring's joint meeting.

Calendar:

Parks Board Meeting – November 18, 2014 at 6:00 pm, CAC
EC Meeting – December 3, 2014 at 6:00 pm, CAC

Adjournment: at 7:47 pm